TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

April 7, 1998 LB 752A

up and do good government things. This is one of those issues that needs to be done. Obviously, you are not going to increase salaries during anyone's term. You have a unique position at this point in time in history where you will have a Governor who is ineligible to have a next term and so you do not have the specter of the politics that would be raised on an issue like It has been since 1990 the last time we visited this. If you look at Senator Chambers' handout that was gotten from the Book of States from the Council of State Governments, you'll see that I believe, Senator Chambers, our Governor at the current rate is I believe the second lowest paid of the states and that does go across the board. It appears that Arkansas routinely is a lot lower paid. Maybe that s a reflection of their, well, I don't want to go there. I don't want to see us placed in that position. It's always difficult to come up and raise those salaries. The good thing it's done in this state is that it's done in a legislative fashion where we are on the floor of the Legislature. We will stand up and say, look, regardless of who is in the position, the fact is the position needs to be compensated if you're going to attract and keep good candidates. And if you don't do it this year, you're then going to go into the next century before this can be done, and that's a very difficult, very difficult position to put any of those people in who are going to run in another four years, and I would hope that the body would step forward. I don't think these are outrageous increases, particularly when you figure that you're going to go from 1990 to probably at the earliest the year 2002 before they're raised again so you have to factor in those percentages each year. It comes out to a modest increase each of those years. In the grand scheme of expenditures, it is not a tremendous amount, but it is one way to try to maintain and attract good candidates for these offices. I would hope that the body would see fit and do what I think is our public duty and that is to continue to increase those salaries. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President, members of the body, I stand to support the Chambers amendment. It came out of the Government Committee and we tossed those figures around. I think they're very close to what Senator Chambers has come out